



Citizens Engaging in Government Oversight (CEGO) in Natural Resources Management

Grant Agreement No. AID-621-GI-4-00001

Quarterly Progress Report

July 1 2015 to September 30 2015

Submitted to:

U.S. Agency for International Development/Tanzania

Resubmitted by:

Lawyers' Environmental Action Team (LEAT)

December 1, 2015

This Quarterly report is made possible by the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents of this quarterly report are the sole responsibility of Lawyers' Environmental Action Team (LEAT) and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

This document was produced for review by the USAID. It was prepared by LEAT for the USAID Citizens Engaging in Government Oversight (CEGO) in Natural Resources Management (Grant Agreement No.AID-621-GI-4-00001).

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Acronyms

ABC	African Bee Culture
AOR	Agreement Officer Representative
ASH-TECH	African Soil Hives Technology
CBOs	Community Based Organizations.
CDP	Capacity Development Plan
CEGO	Citizens Engaging in Government Oversight
CEGO-NRM	Citizens Engaging in Government Oversight in Natural Resources Management
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DEC	Development Experience Clearinghouse
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
IEC	Information, Education, and Communication.
IPRS	Implementing Partner Reporting System
LEAT	Lawyers' Environmental Action Team
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MBOMIPA	Matumizi Bora ya Maliasili Idodi na Pawaga
MJUMIKK	Mtandao wa Jamii wa Usimamizi wa Misititu Kanda ya Kitapilimwa
MUVIMA	Mufindi Vijana Kwa Maendeleo
NRM	Natural Resources Management
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
POC	Person of Contact
PT	Pamoja Twajenga
PWC	Price Waterhouse Coopers
SAM	Social Accountability Monitoring
SIDO	Small Industries Development Organizations
SPO	Senior Program Officer
TMEMS	Tanzania Monitoring and Evaluation Management Services
TACOSODE	Tanzania Council for Social Development
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VENRCs	Village Environmental and Natural Resources Committees
VLC	Village Land Council
VLUC	Village Land Use Council
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WMA _s	Wildlife Management Areas
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Executive Summary

This report describes the activities implemented in the fourth quarter of year two (2014/2015) of the *Citizens Engaging in Government Oversight in Natural Resources Management* (CEGO-NRM) Project. CEGO-NRM project is implemented in Iringa Rural and Mufindi districts in Iringa Region, southern highlands of Tanzania. The report highlights implementation status of project administrative and technical activities planned for this quarter. Moreover, the report discusses the project success stories as a result of project interventions in the two districts and highlights the key achievements of quarter one, two and three in the second year. It further enumerates challenges and lessons learnt in the course of implementing project activities.

In ensuring smooth and successful implementation of field project activities, 2 brand new project vehicles were procured in the third quarter, the vehicles are stationed in Iringa Rural and Mufindi districts which have smoothened the execution of project activities.

In the second year, LEAT conducted and provided trainings on Natural Resources Management (NRM) and Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) to 1190 (515 males and 675 females) villagers in the two project districts which is equivalent to 99.1% of the total target of 1200 villagers. The villagers were drawn from 16 villages (8 villages in each district) which are: Malinzanga, Idodi, Kitisi, Mfyome, Itagutwa, Tungamalenga, Kiwere, and Kitapilimwa in Iringa Rural district and Tambalang'ombe, Mapogoro, Utosi, Lugoda-Lutali, Uhambila, Nyololo Njiapanda, Kibada, and Igombavanu in Mufindi district. Also 64 (44 males and 20 females) members of VNRC, VLC, and VLUC were trained on NRM and SAM in two additional villages of Nyololo Njiapanda in Mufindi district and Malinzanga in Iringa Rural district. The trainings imparted knowledge to local communities and enhanced their understanding of NRM and SAM issues. They (trainings) are further geared at empowering them to soundly and sustainably manage locally available natural resources.

To improve community livelihood among local communities in project villages, 267 (155 males and 112 females) villagers were trained on beekeeping in the first, second, third and fourth quarters. This is equivalent to 76.2 percent of the total target for this year. Trained villagers came from beekeeping groups formed in the above-mentioned villages. The beekeeping trainings imparted them with knowledge on beekeeping as an alternative income generating activity that would enable villagers to generate incomes from beekeeping. The training, among other things, imparted them with beekeeping skills on how to manage beehives, apiaries, and honey harvesting without using "bee smokers" so as to improve the quality of honey.

Consequently, the SAM trainings in both districts increased community awareness and community engagement in demanding accountability and transparency of local leaders. This is evident in Idodi, Kitisi, and Malinzanga villages in Iringa Rural district and Igombavanu in Mufindi district. On May 8, 2015, for example, Idodi villagers protested and demanded the suspension of a local contractor for the shoddy construction job of the village's water supply system. In Kitisi village, on May 29 2015 trained villagers demanded for the release of the village annual revenue and expenditures by their Village Executive Officer while in Malinzanga trained villagers demanded for the holding of the Village General Assembly meeting which had not been held for more than 18 months. Due to these demands from villagers some of the local leaders have been suspended and new leaders put into their positions.

These incidences and events show significant changes caused by project interventions and the impact the project has had to the beneficiaries who now are able to demand and are demanding accountability

and transparency of their leaders. They are also actively demanding the engagement of local citizens in the management of both natural and physical resources.

I. Project Overview

This project is implemented in Iringa Rural and Mufindi districts in Iringa region. These districts were selected because they have Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), wildlife resources, forests, and protected areas. The criteria of choosing these areas included: the network LEAT has established in the districts which serve as entry points; the organization's past experience in working on natural resources management related legal issues; and the trainings on public expenditure and tracking surveys conducted in Wami-Mbiki, Idodi, and Pawaga wards.

Under the project, LEAT uses SAM as an empowering and enabling tool to the citizens in the project districts to monitor how public institutions, tasked with the management of public resources, spend and manage those resources for and on behalf of the public. Exercising this role entailed capacity building of LEAT staff members who form the project implementation and management team. In order to build a critical mass of empowered citizens at the village level, the project targeted to trained 32 people working for CBOs (16 of whom trained in the first year of the project); 28 members from the district natural resources committees (14 of whom were trained in year one of the project); 700 people randomly selected from villages to be trained on beekeeping (267 of whom were trained in year 2); 1,500 members of VNRCs, VLC and VLUC (547 of whom trained in years one and two of the project) and 3,000villagers (1190 of whom trained in year two)both men and women.

The project intends to meet the following objectives:

- To advocate for proper management of natural resources in order to reduce poverty and ensure sustainable conservation of biodiversity;
- To inculcate a culture of public participation in matters related to natural resources conservation and management;
- To increase community capacity in holding accountable government institutions entrusted with the duty to conserve and manage natural resources;
- To promote effective enforcement and implementation of laws and policies that integrate natural resources and climate change as indispensable tools for attaining good governance and sustainable management of natural resources; and
- To build capacity to individuals in social accountability monitoring in order to enable them to actively perform an oversight role over management of public resources.

The project information and communication materials are being posted in LEAT's website www.lead.or.tz and are updated regularly. Moreover, the project information and activities on the ground are regularly reported in LEAT's Facebook page<https://www.facebook.com/LEATTEAM>.

Project Goal and Results

Project Goal

Citizens' engaging in Government oversight in the natural resources management sector increased.

Intermediate Results:

Project Intermediate Result 1

Citizens and duty bearers awareness on proper management of forests and wildlife resources at district, ward, and village levels increased.

Project intermediate Result 2

Citizens engagement in demanding for accountability and transparency in the management of forest and wildlife resources improved.

2.0 Activity Implementation Progress

2.1 Progress narrative highlighting key achievements; On/off track as far as work-plan/targets:

This section gives an account of achievements of the project implementation in year two (2) of the project:

Key achievements in year two

In this project year, LEAT recorded the following achievements:

1. Completion of trainings on NRM and SAM to VNRC members and Villagers in 16 project villages (8 villages in each district)

In this project year, LEAT provided NRM and SAM trainings to 64 VNRC members (44 males and 20 females) from two additional villages, which were not initially part of the project. Moreover, the project conducted NRM and SAM trainings to 1190 (515 males and 675 females) villagers drawn from all 16-project villages (8 villages from each project district). These trainings were aimed at imparting knowledge to citizens on how to actively engage in the management of locally available natural resources.

Consequently, the NRM and SAM trainings have increased public debates and dialogues among different groups at the village level especially within the project villages. In most of the project villages, Village Assembly and VNRC meetings are being held and citizens are accorded opportunities to air out their views and give recommendations. This is evident in Itagutwa, Tungamalenga, Malinzanga, Kitisi, and Kiwere in Iringa Rural district. Similarly in Mufindi district these meetings are held in Kibada, Igombavanu, Tambalang'ombe and Mapogoro village. Through these meetings villagers are questioning their leaders and duty bearers on the amount of revenues generated from forest and wildlife resources and participate in the expenditure approval processes.

Furthermore, the trainings have strengthened the capacities of citizens to demand transparency and accountability in matters related to management of natural resources. Among the immediate results of the trainings was the sacking of the village chairperson of Mfyome village in November 2014 (quarter I of year two) and the dissolution of the entire natural resources committee in Igombavanu village for the abuse of power and misuse of village revenues in January 2015.

Additionally, the trainings have created a culture of citizens' participation in the management of village natural resources through arresting illegal loggers and charcoal burners among many others. They are now reporting incidences related to degradation of forest and wildlife resources. In Kiwere village, for example, the trained citizens arrested charcoal producers with 70 sacks of charcoal illegally obtained from the village forest.

2. Supporting district SAM teams to undertake SAM exercises and formation of mini-SAM teams at the village level

LEAT in collaboration with partner CBOs namely: African Soil Hives Technology (ASHTECH), Mtandao wa Jamii wa Usimamizi wa Misituta Kanda ya Kitapilimwa (MJUMIKK), Matumizi Bora ya Maliasili Idodi na Pawaga (MBOMIPA) and Mufindi Vijana kwa Maendeleo (MUVIMA), supported two SAM teams one in Mufindi district and the other one in Iringa Rural district to undertake SAM exercises. Each team is made up of 17 members drawn from the partner CBOs, district council, and representatives from wards and villages. The teams collected and analyzed district, ward, and village documents related to the management of natural resources within the respective districts. The documents analyzed include: *District Strategic Plans of 2011/2012-2015/2016*, *District Annual Work Plans of 2013/2014*, *Implementation Reports*, *District Budgets and District Councilors' Resolutions Reports*. The analysis of the documents aimed at ascertaining the extent at which the district councils prioritize NRM issues. Apart from analyzing the documents, the teams carried out field visits in Lugoda-Lutali, Igombavanu, and Tambalang'ombe villages in Mufindi district and Tungamalenga, Kitisi, and Idodi villages in Iringa Rural district with the aim of carrying out a comparative analysis between NRM prioritized activities in the analyzed documents and the actual implementation on the ground (performance management).

After analyzing the documents and carrying out field visits, the teams identified a number of issues related to accountability, transparency, planning, and management of natural resources. For example, insufficient allocation of budget to district natural resources departments (both in Mufindi and Iringa Rural districts), delay of disbursing revenues to VMAs, lack of village annual work plans and natural resources management plans, low or non-involvement of villagers in drafting and prioritizing natural resources management issues, lack of and/or non-implementation of village by-laws related to natural resources, and improper or un-procedural formation and running of village natural resources committees. Moreover, most of VNRC members did not know their responsibilities and those of the other village administration organs.

On the other hand, LEAT formed mini-SAM teams in some of the project villages comprised of 10 members selected from the pool of trained villagers. The teams are working closely with CBOs to play an oversight role in all matters related to village natural resources management. They are important groups in the villages and they provide a pivotal link between villagers and village authorities in the management of village natural resources. Village SAM team members also participate in legally established democratic forums (Village Assemblies) and amplify their voices in ensuring that public resources including wildlife and forests are properly managed.

Table 1: Number of district SAM team members

Mufindi		Iringa Rural	
Male	Female	Male	Female
15	2	13	4
Grand total		17	

3. Preparation, publication, and dissemination of brochures and training manuals on NRM and SAM

In this project year, LEAT finalized the preparation of and the printing of SAM training manual and brochures and disseminated several copies of brochures and NRM & SAM training manual. A total of 25,000 copies of SAM training manual were printed and 4,986 copies were disseminated to different project stakeholders. Similarly, a total of 4,986 copies of NRM training manual were distributed to trained villagers and other project stakeholders. Moreover, 3500 brochures for NRM & SAM and 3000 CEGO brochures were printed 350 of which were disseminated. These documents were disseminated to trained villagers, SAM team members, district officials, partner CBOs, and other stakeholders in both Iringa Rural and Mufindi districts. These materials contain information that aim at increasing citizens' awareness on management of natural resources within the project districts and beyond.

The disseminated manuals have been used by citizens to vindicate their rights in courts of law and legal tribunals while some of the trained villagers and village leaders are using NRM and SAM training manuals as reference points in making administrative decisions in their respective villages. For instance, Lugoda-Lutali villagers, under the guidance of the trained villagers, were able to use the NRM training manual to assert their right over the village forest land from and chased away an unscrupulous "investor." Initially, the alleged investor took a big chunk of forest land and mounted about 1,000 beehives without involving the village authorities and observing the stipulated procedures as per the Village Land Act No. 5 of 1999, the Local Government (District Authorities) Act, 2002, the Forest Act of 2002, and other related laws which provide powers to Village Councils through the Village Assembly to manage village land and other resources thereof.

4. Change of Project Implementation modality from partnership structure to sub-grantee model.

LEAT under the support of Pamoja Twajenga developed the draft sub-grantee model that will be used in year three of the project to guide the sub-grants to LEAT partner CBOs. Initially, LEAT implemented the project activities in partnership with CBOs. Under the partnership structure LEAT was in charge of all the project activities and project funds. The project activities were being conducted and implemented by LEAT staff in collaboration with partner CBOs. This model was said to be outdated and could not lead to empowerment of the project CBO partners since they would not consider themselves as part of the project owners.

Consequently, LEAT organized a meeting with the partner CBOs in September 2015 to discuss changes on project implementation modality from partnership structure to sub-grantee model. Both LEAT and partner CBOs discussed and agreed on the roles to be played by each party. Among the issues agreed are that partner sub-grantees will be directly involved in the implementation of project field activities such as training of villagers on NRM and SAM, beekeeping and regular follow-up and documentation of NRM and SAM actions taken. It was also agreed that funds will be deposited into sub-grantees' accounts, the sub-grantees will be responsible for their management and will submit the financial expenditure report to LEAT.

The adopted sub-grantee model will replace the partnership structure used by LEAT in years one and two of the project.

5. Preparation of training manual and provide trainings on beekeeping to beekeeping groups.

In this reporting year, LEAT and its partner CBOs identified and registered 12 beekeeping groups. Members of the beekeeping groups were selected from the project villages where each village has one beekeeping group composed of 22 members. A total of 267 members (155 males and 112 females) equivalent to 76.2 percent of the targeted 350 members were trained on beekeeping activities. The trained beekeepers, in their respective groups, will be provided with beehives enabling them to venture into beekeeping activities as one of the means of earning environmentally friendly income.

Moreover, LEAT prepared the draft beekeeping training manual that will be used to train members of the beekeeping groups. The preparation of the manual was necessitated by the paucity of beekeeping policy and legal aspects in the existing beekeeping manuals prepared by other organizations. LEAT believes that members of the beekeeping groups should be exposed to policy and legal aspects of beekeeping in Tanzania so as to conduct their activities properly. Apart from that, the manual is informed by other beekeeping training manuals and incorporates most of the issues discussed therein.

6. Completion of office working documents and conducts organization capacity assessment to CBOs as a result of capacity building support from Pamoja Twajenga.

LEAT through capacity building support from Pamoja Twajenga prepared a number of organizational project management plans, policies, and strategies for the purpose of enabling proper implementation of the project as per the required standard procedures. The documents prepared include: *Project Management Plan, draft of Advocacy Strategy, draft of Fundraising Strategy, updated Procurement Policy, updated Human Resources Manual, updated Financial Policy, Gender Policy, Exit interview form, Staff Appraisal Form, and Knowledge Management Policy*. These documents were developed in response to OCA report of year one, which among other things identified a number of capacity gaps including absence of office working documents mentioned above. These documents have smoothened the implementation of the project, financial management and proper management of the office.

Moreover, LEAT under the support of Pamoja Twajenga conducted OCA to CBOs to identify capacity gaps that need to be addressed. The OCA exercise was based on seven components namely: Project Performance, Financial Management, Program Management, Human Resources Management, Organization Management, Administration and Governance. The OCA report was prepared and shared to Pamoja Twajenga. Through this exercise Capacity Building Plans (CDPs) were developed and will later be used to strengthen CBOs capacity basing on the identified gaps.

Table 2: Number of Villagers trained on NRM, SAM, and Beekeeping

Component One: Training on NRM and SAM to Villagers.				Component Two: Training on Beekeeping.			
MUFINDI DISTRICT							
Villages	Male	Female	Subtotal I	Village	Male	Female	Subtotal I
1. Mapogoro	26	49	75	Mapogoro	17	5	22
2. Igombavanu	33	43	76	Tambalang’ombe	12	10	22
3. Tambalang’ombe	32	39	71	Kibada	13	9	22
4. Utosi	34	42	76	Uhambila	11	11	22
5. Uhambila	43	30	73	Igombavanu	19	6	25
6. Kibada	32	42	74	Lugoda-Lutali	10	12	22
7. Nyololo Njiapanda	29	44	73				
8. LugodaLutali	33	42	75				
SUBTOTAL I	262	331	593		82	53	135
IRINGA DISTRICT							
1. Idodi	39	36	75	Kitisi	10	12	22
2. Kitisi	30	45	75	Tungamalenga	13	9	22
3. Malinzanga	23	52	75	Idodi	14	8	22
4. Mfyome	36	39	75	Malinzanga	13	9	22
5. Tungamalenga	33	42	75	Kiwere	13	9	22
6. Itagutwa	28	44	72	Kitisi	10	12	22
7. Kiwere	29	46	75				
8. Kitapilimwa	35	40	75				
SUB TOTAL 2	253	344	597		73	59	132
GRAND TOTAL	515	675	1190		155	112	267

2.2 Implementation status of quarter 4.

2.2.1. Administrative activities:

Following the resignation of the SPO who served for two months and the Communication Officer, LEAT advertised the two posts in the local newspapers namely: The Guardian of September 18, 2015. It is expected that the staff will be engaged by early November 2015. These key staff will join LEAT team after all the recruitments procedures have been completed to ensure smooth and successful implementation of CEGO-NRM project activities. The two staff will be stationed in Dar es Salaam at LEAT's head office.

2.2.1.1. Procurement of 350 Beehives

After completion of the bidding process and approval from USAID, LEAT signed a contract with African Bee Culture (ABC) to produce 350 beehives. The procured 350 beehives will be supplied to 350 villagers of 16 beekeeping groups in the 16 project villages. The said beehives will enable beekeepers to actively engage in the beekeeping activity as an alternative means of generating income.

2.2.1.2. Project Auditing

As part of USAID financial management requirements and LEAT's financial policy, each year the projects must undergo auditing exercise for financial compliance and accountability purposes. On the fourth quarter of 2014/15 Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) audited LEAT's CEGO-NRM project accounts. The pre entry-auditing meeting was conducted on August 14, 2015. The exit-auditing meeting was held on September 30, 2015 and the final audit report was submitted to LEAT on the same day. Few audit queries were raised, and these include: internal control deficiency, non-compliance of operating a non-interest bearing account and non-compliance of the cost principles for non-profit organizations. LEAT addressed all the queries and submitted the implementation plan to USAID explaining how audit findings will be addressed.

In addressing the internal control query on page 21 of the audit report, LEAT will engage the IT consultant by March 30, 2016 to establish a backup procedure and store back up devices in a secure area that can only be accessible by authorized staff.

In addressing compliance query on page 24 of the audit report, LEAT will open an interest bearing account by December 30, 2015 to comply with section II (I) of the Grant Agreement between LEAT and USAID.

To address the compliance query on page 25 of the audit report, LEAT will rectify all staff contracts by November 30, 2015 to ensure that there is a clear delineation of the salary contribution for all its employees from the different sources and in case there is a resignation or vacancy in the project and another staff assumes that role then a new contract or appointment letter will be written reflecting the salary or an additional raise for that position and the time unto which it will be paid.

However the audit report generally concluded that LEAT's financial statement was of an unqualified opinion meaning that LEAT's financial management system are robust and comply with USAID's financial management standards.

2.3 Technical activities (narration of activities implemented per Intermediate Result Areas) – include what was planned versus what was actually achieved

PIR: Increased citizens' awareness on proper management of forests and wildlife resources at district, ward and village levels;

Under Project Intermediate Result I, LEAT implemented the following activities from July 1 -September 30, 2015 as narrated below:

Activity 1.1: Capacity building on NRM and governance to ward representatives, village natural resources committees members (VNRCs), village land use councils (VLUCs), village land councils (VLCs) and villagers in the two project districts

1.1.1 Training of villagers on NRM

LEAT in collaboration with its partner CBOs trained villagers on NRM in Kibada, Uhambila and Nyololo Njiapanda villages in Mufindi district and Itagutwa, Kitapilimwa and Kiwere in Iringa Rural district. The trainings commenced on July 27, 2015 and came to an end on September 2, 2015. Villagers were trained on policies, laws, regulations and guidelines, and methods applicable in management of natural resources. Additionally, citizens were equipped with knowledge on the importance of their participation in natural resource management and governance. The trainings increased citizens' knowledge and awareness in matters related to natural resources management. For example, in Kiwere village some of the trained villagers took the initiative to start a tree nursery as a means of rehabilitating the highly degraded areas in the village forests.

Table 3: Number of People Trained on NRM & SAM in Quarter 4.

Training Date	Location	Village	GENDER		Total
July 27 – August 12, 2015	MUFINDI		Male	Female	
		Uhambila	43	30	73
August 13-20,2015		Kibada	32	42	74
August 26-September 2, 2015		Nyololo-Njiapanda	29	44	73
	IRINGA RURAL				
July 27 – August 12, 2015		Itagutwa	28	44	72
August 13-20,2015		Kitapilimwa	35	40	75
August 26-Sept. 2, 2015		Kiwere	29	46	75
GRAND TOTAL					442

Activity 1.2: Establishment of alternative Income Generating Activities (IGAs) in two districts:

1.2.3. Stakeholder's meeting/workshop to review training manual on beekeeping

LEAT organized and conducted a two-day stakeholders meeting to review the draft beekeeping manual that it will use to conduct trainings on beekeeping. The meeting was held at M.R. Hotel in Iringa from July 23 to 24, 2015 and was attended by LEAT partners and stakeholders. The partners who attended the meeting include: representatives from Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Mufindi and Iringa Rural District Beekeeping Officers and partner CBOs. All inputs and recommendations from stakeholders were incorporated into the draft beekeeping manual. The draft manual will be printed in the next reporting quarter when enough funds are reallocated from other line items with USAID's approval.

Activity 1.3 Awareness creation on natural resources management and governance through Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials

1.3.3 Update online website and social media outlets

LEAT continued updating information on LEAT's website and social media outlets. The project activities and other LEAT information have been posted on LEAT's website www.lead.or.tz, Facebook and blog spots. Among the posted information on CEGO-NRM project in this quarter include project profile, brochures (English and Swahili versions), and NRM and SAM training manuals. These project communication materials are and will be accessible to project stakeholders and beneficiaries and are hoped to increase the citizens' awareness on natural resources management and governance.

1.3.6 Documentation of success stories

The NRM and SAM trainings have increased the villagers' awareness in the project areas, as they are now able to hold accountable duty bearers in their villages and or participating in management of natural resources. Some of the documented stories form part of this report as annex 1.

PIR 2: Citizens engagement in demanding for accountability and transparency in the management of forests and wildlife improved.

Activity 2.1 Capacity building to citizens on Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) to Wards, VNRC, VLUC, VLC, and villagers in the two project districts

2.1.1 Training of villagers on SAM

LEAT in collaboration with partner CBOs, conducted onsite trainings on SAM to 442 Villagers (222 in Iringa Rural district and 220 in Mufindi district). The trainings were conducted in Uhambila, Kibada, and Nyololo-Njiapanda villages in Mufindi district and Itagutwa, Kitapilimwa and Kiwere villages in Iringa Rural districts. The trainings aimed at imparting SAM knowledge to villagers to enable them to demand accountability and transparency from duty bearers entrusted with the duty to manage revenues generated from natural resources.

The trainings have increased awareness of community members to the extent that the trainees are able to demand transparency and accountability from their village leaders on natural resources

management issues. For example, in the process of reviewing Kitapilimwa village work plan; participants noted that the work plan of 2015/2016 was a replica of the 2009/2010 plan with slight amendments. There was, however, no formal and participatory process of developing the 2015/2016-work plan. Therefore, the trained villagers questioned their leaders regarding the work plans, demanded formal, legal, and participatory work plan development processes when setting priorities, and developing such plans.

Table 4: Number of People trained on SAM in Q.4

Training Date	Location	Village	Gender		Total
	MUFINDI		Male	Female	
July 27-August 12,2015		Uhambila	43	30	73
August 13-20, 2015		Kibada	32	42	74
August 26-Sept.2, 2015`		Nyololo-Njiapanda	29	44	73
Date	IRINGA RURAL				
July 27-August 12,2015		Itagutwa	28	44	72
August 13-20, 2015		Kitapilimwa	35	40	75
August 26-Sept. 2, 2015		Kiwere	29	45	75
GRAND TOTAL					442

2.1.3. Supporting SAM team to undertake SAM exercises and Reviewing SAM Team's Findings Report

LEAT in collaboration with partner CBOs conducted two SAM team meetings in Iringa Rural and Mufindi districts to support SAM teams to review and analyze district natural resources related documents and prepare the findings reports. Each team comprised 17 members drawn from the district council (2 representatives of the district council), 4 ward representatives, and 7 villagers (one villager from each project village), 2 CBO representatives, and two opinion leaders one from each ward. Several documents including: *District Strategic plans, Work plans, implementation reports, district budgets and District Councilors' resolutions reports*. During the exercise, the teams identified several accountability and transparency issues relating to NRM including: insufficient allocation of budget to district natural resources department, delay of disbursing revenues to WMA, lack of natural resources management plans, lack of village work plans, insignificant involvement of villagers in

drafting and prioritizing natural resources issues, lack of and/or non-implementation of village by-laws related to natural resources, and improper and illegal composition of village natural resources committees. Finally, the teams developed draft reports documenting the findings, challenges, and lessons learnt which will be shared with district authorities in the feedback meeting to be held in November or December 2015.



Picture 1: SAM team members during the review of SAM team's finding report in Iringa at MR Hotel on September 22 2015.



Picture 2: Group photo of SAM team members during the SAM team exercise in Iringa at the MR Hotel on September 21 2015.

1.1. Technical Activities

- 442 villagers were trained on NRM and SAM in eight villages in Iringa Rural and Mufindi districts;
- A final draft of simplified version of beekeeping training manual in place; and
- District SAM team draft reports in place.

Table 5: July 1-September 30, 2015 Milestones

Activity 3.0: Monitoring and Follow up of Project Activities.

3.1 Operationalization of M&E plan.

With the assistance from Pamoja Twajenga M&E specialist and Tanzania Monitoring and Evaluation Management Services' (TMEMS) specialists, LEAT reviewed its M&E Plan as suggested by members of the Data Quality Assessment (DQA) team during their visit to LEAT office on July 17, 2015 and site visit in the project areas on July 28 – 30, 2015.

3.2.2 Develop data tracking tool

In this reporting period, LEAT developed two project-tracking tools namely: gender assessment tool and a guided supervision plan. These tools will allow LEAT to smoothly track project progress during field supportive visits.

3.3.2 Project progress reporting and web based data entry

The third quarterly report of year two was prepared and shared with Pamoja Twajenga for technical inputs. It was later submitted to USAID on 30th July 2015 for approval. Based issues for clarifications raised by the LEAT's AOR upon addressing them resubmitted the report to USAID on August 18, 2015 and the report was approved. Moreover, the relevant project (the project target and actual for the last quarter reporting period) were filled in the Implementing Partner Reporting System (IPRS). LEAT also shared the quarterly report in Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC) website.

1.1 Monitoring Activities

- Draft M&E plan in place;
- 2 data tracking tools (gender assessment tool and a guided supervision plan) have been developed.

Table 6: Milestones in Project M&E

Activity 4.0: LEAT capacity in all organizational categories improved

4.1: Strengthen LEAT capacity in organizational development and advocacy

4.1.3: Internal coaching and backstopping to the project facilitation team

Pamoja Twajenga (PT) has been working closely with LEAT by providing technical support on the areas of project implementation, organizational management, financial management and monitoring and evaluation. LEAT's capacity of implementing projects has increased because of regular coaching and capacity building support received from PT. For instance, on August 18, 2015 PT and LEAT had a few hours management meeting to briefly discuss on how best the project could be implemented by creating well harmonized schedules between LEAT and PT in order to avoid overlapping work plans and schedules.

On July 13, 2015 LEAT Grant Specialist from PT trained staffs on matters relating to financial management. The training was based on key pillars of financial management, which include planning, organizing, controlling and monitoring. It also highlighted on USAID key financial terms such as advance, advance liquidation, differences between actual expenditure and planned expenditure, award amount, obligated amount, pipeline, burn rate, incremental funding and other applicable financial terms. This coaching improved LEAT's financial management and reporting.

On the other hand, LEAT's Person of Contact (POC) from Pamoja Twajenga has been mentoring LEAT project facilitation team on areas of organizational management and project implementation. On September 10, 2015, LEAT and PT conducted re-organization capacity assessment to ascertain the extent of addressing organizational capacity gaps identified during OCA exercise. The re-OCA process enabled LEAT to finalize preparation of LEAT policies and guidelines such as Advocacy Strategy and Fundraising Strategy which will be the guiding documents in advocacy works and resources mobilization, respectively.

Pamoja Twajenga has been working with LEAT's M&E Officer and other staffs to improve the M&E plan and provide technical coaching on how to accurately report project data on the IPRS. This support enabled LEAT to review its M&E plan by incorporating comments raised by LEAT's AOR, Pamoja Twajenga, and TMEMS as a result of Data Quality Assessment (DQA)

I.1. Capacity building in organizational development and advocacy activities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2 LEAT Program Officers trained on advocacy issues and how to develop advocacy strategy; ➤ LEAT staffs received capacity building training on financial management, and organizational management; ➤ M&E plan reviewed; ➤ Advocacy Strategy prepared and ready to be operationalized; and ➤ Advocacy assessment conducted and advocacy gaps identified.

5.0 Course corrections and lessons learnt

In the course of implementing the project, it was learnt that SAM teams could effectively work if their activities are also undertaken at the grassroots level i.e., the village as well as at the district level. Based on this lesson LEAT decided to establish mini-SAM teams at the village level composed of 10 members trained on NRM and SAM. The mini-SAM teams will work closely with the village government leaders and CBO members in the project villages to demand accountability and transparency on issues relating to natural resources management at the village level. Furthermore, the activities of mini-SAM teams will ensure project sustainability and project ownership to villagers.

It was further observed that trainees have put and are putting into practice the NRM and SAM knowledge by arresting illegal loggers and demanding accountability from their leaders. It was out of this realization that LEAT tasked the partner CBOs to document and report all actions taken by the trainees in each village.

Moreover, LEAT learnt that the knowledge gained by Village Natural Resources Committee (VNRC) members and villagers, as a result of NRM and SAM trainings, has been used to demand transparency and accountability in different sectors such as health and agriculture which are not related to natural resources. In that regard LEAT in collaboration with CBOs and SAM team members will be collecting and documenting all the successes recorded out of the NRM and SAM trainings.

6.0 Activities planned in this quarter but not implemented and planned to be implemented in the next quarter

Activities planned in this quarter but not implemented		
PIR I: Increased citizens awareness on proper management of forests and wildlife resources at district, ward and village level		
Activity 1.2 Establishment of alternative income generating activities (IGA) in the two project districts		COMMENTS
1.2.4	Publication and dissemination of training manual on beekeeping	Publication and dissemination of the training manual will be done in the next reporting quarter/financial year. The manual was not published in this year due to the small amount of money set aside for it and will be published in the next year when adequate funds are allocated for it.
1.2.6	Training of selected groups on beekeeping	Training of selected groups on beekeeping in the remaining two villages in each district will be done from October 9, 2015.
1.2.7	Training of identified beekeeping groups on packing, packaging, marketing and financial management	LEAT will hire an expert consultant to conduct this training in November/December 2015.
1.2.9	Creation of linkages between consumers and bee products producers	LEAT has started liaising with District Beekeeping Officers, honey-processing companies, and other experts on the

		marketability of honey produced by beekeeping groups supported by LEAT.
Activity 1.3 Awareness creation on Natural Resources Management and governance through Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Materials		
1.3.3	Preparation of Project Documentary	This will be prepared in the third year of the project and will be completed in the fourth year.
1.3.5	Produce NRM and SAM songs and Drama	This activity will be implemented in the next project year.
Activities to be implemented in the next Quarter		
PIR 1: Increased citizen awareness on proper management of forests and wildlife resources at district, ward and village levels		
Activity 1.2 Establishment of alternative income generating activities (IGA) in the two project districts		
1.2.4	Publication and dissemination of the Training Manual on beekeeping.	This will be done in the coming project year
1.2.5	Identification and registration of beekeeping groups.	This will be done in the two remaining villages in each district by October 15.
1.2.6	Training of selected groups on beekeeping.	This will be done in the two remaining villages in each district by October 15.

1.2.8	Procurement of beehives and beekeeping materials.	The procurement process has started and will be finalized in the next
Activity 1.3: Awareness creation on natural resources management and governance through information, education, and communication (IEC) materials		
1.3.3	Preparation of Project Documentary.	The documentary will be prepared in the next project year and completed in the fourth year.
1.3.6	Document success stories.	This is an on-going activity and will be carried out each quarter in collaboration with CBO members and village mini-SAM
PIR 2: Citizens engagement in demanding for accountability and transparency in the management of forests and wildlife Improved		
Activity 2.1: Capacity building to citizens on social accountability monitoring (SAM) to Wards, VNRC, VLUC, and VLC in the two project districts		
2.1.4	Conducting feedback meeting to share SAM teams' findings.	This activity is scheduled for November after the completion of the analysis of the findings by SAM team.
2.1.5	Conducting a dialogue on issues emerging from SAM teams' findings.	This activity will be conducted in the next quarter after finalization of SAM teams' findings reports.
3.0 Monitoring and follow up of project activities		
3.1.6	Training of LEAT staff on Mid Term project evaluation.	This activity will be conducted in the next quarter.

3.2.1	Supporting Supervision to CBOs.	This activity will be conducted in the second quarter.
3.2.3	M& E meeting.	This activity will be conducted in the second quarter.
Activity 4.1 Strengthen LEAT capacity in organizational development and advocacy		
Activity 4.2 Strengthen CBOs' capacity in organization development and advocacy		
4.2.1	Consolidate findings and develop capacity building plans.	This activity will be conducted in the second quarter.
4.2.6	Conduct advocacy assessment on partner CBOs.	This activity will be conducted after LEAT receives capacity building training on how to conduct advocacy assessment to CBOs from PT.

7.0 Challenges encountered in this Quarter and actions taken

Despite the successes in implementing the project activities in both districts, the project experienced challenges, which sometimes slowed down the implementation of activities:

Challenge

While implementing the SAM team exercise in Mufindi district the Mufindi district Planning Officer did not avail the SAM team, through LEAT, the necessary documents for the SAM activity such as the Annual Implementation Report of 2014/2015, and the district council resolutions/minutes. The said Planning Officer did not do so despite the authorization of the District Executive Director (DED) for their release.

Action Taken

In addressing this, SAM team members will approach the district officials and explain the importance of conducting SAM team exercises through documents review as means of identifying accountability issues relating to sound management of natural resources at the district level. At the same time, SAM team members with LEAT and the four CBOs will formally introduce themselves to the district council in order to avoid future encumbrances when conducting SAM team's exercises.

Challenge

In some cases training days, scheduled in villages, conflict with villagers' daily priorities particularly farming and other livelihood activities. Some selected trainees (villagers) happen to engage themselves in their daily farming activities and hence do not participate in all training days.

Action Taken

In addressing this, the project Team in collaboration with partner CBOs have encouraged villagers to inform the project team earlier when training schedules conflict with their daily livelihood activities so that the trainings could be re-scheduled.

Challenge

Some village leaders such as Villager Executive Officers and Ward Executives Officers perceive the project as a "political threat" to them and positions they hold because trained villagers have begun to question their accountability and transparency on issues concerning villagers' welfare. Due to this they do not offer the requisite cooperation and participation in the project activities when so asked.

Action Taken

The project Team in collaboration with partner CBOs have continued to engage, encourage and educate respective local leaders in all project villages on the goal of the project and why their participation is key to the achievement of the project goal.

8. Annexes.

Success Stories

Saving the forest by holding accountable Illegal Miners and Village Leaders



Picture 3: Mr Chuki Mduda (the one third from right) with fellow villagers on the mining site in Ganga la Mtumba village forest

Mfyome village in Iringa Rural district with 18,195 hectares of land and 3019 residents was an environmental disaster about to happen. The village was losing its natural forests, water sources, and vegetation due to illegal mining activities.

Chuki Mduda, a resident from the village says, “We used to be the victims of natural resources degradation. My fellow villagers and I were complaining bitterly because of the ever increasing mining explorations taking place in our village forest reserve, Ganga la Mtumba”

Since 2009 mining explorations activities took place in the village forest resulting to excessive degradation of the forest reserve. The mining explorations in the village were the result of the belief that *Ganga la Mtumba* forest reserve has gold deposits. This belief led to huge influx of small scale miners in the village who carried out the so-called “exploration” and later on mining activities after “receiving” the approval of the district authority.

Following the problem, LEAT, through USAID’s Citizens Engaging in Government Oversight in Natural Resources Management (CEGO-NRM), intervened in 2014 and offered natural resources management and social accountability training to 35 residents in the village. The training equipped them with knowledge on natural resources management and builds their capacity to demand accountability from those entrusted with the mandate to manage locally available natural resources.

They were further trained on essential aspects of environmental impact assessment (EIA) before any developmental project or mining activity is undertaken in the village and village forest reserve in particular. After this training, villagers came to realize that gold mining activities in their village forest reserve were being carried out illegally as no EIA was carried out and they were not involved in approving it. They further realized that the “approvals” by the district officials were illegal, as the said officials are not vested with the requisite powers. After the training, armed with knowledge, the resident villagers decided to take action against those activities.

“After the trainings” Mduda stated, “my fellow villagers and I recognized that the miners were undertaking their activities illegally and did not have an environmental certificate as required by the law. We also arrested one lorry driver who was transporting mined mineral ores alleging that he was going to test them if they had gold deposits. We fined him 2,000,000/- and we banned him from ever mining in our village”

The wrath of the villagers did not end up with the fined lorry driver but also with the village chairman. Upon fining the illegal miner the fine amount was handed over to the village chairman and was supposed to ensure that it is reported to the village council. Instead of doing so he distributed it to some of the people who took part in arresting the driver without the permission of the village council and the village assembly. When the village assembly was held the villagers asked the chairman to account on the whereabouts of the funds. He failed to do so. They immediately asked him to refund the money and they relieved him of his duties.

Appendix: Indicator Chart

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:													
S/n o	INTERMEDIATE RESULTS/ SUB-IR	INDICATOR	Data Source	Baseline data		FY 2015		Quarterly Status FY 2014/2015				Performance Achievement (%) for this reporting period	Comment(s)
				Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
	Standard Indicator 2.2.3-5	Number of sub-national entities receiving USG assistance that improve their performance	Interview, Pre and Post questions, and Attendance sign sheets.	2014	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	In 2014 LEAT trained 14 sub national entities 7 from Mufindi district and 7 from Iringa Rural district, which was 100% of the target for the two districts. There is no target for this year.
	Standard indicator 4.8.1-6	Number of people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resources management and conservation as a result of USG assistance.	Standard indicator 4.8.1-6	2014	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	LEAT will start reporting on this indicator once households start to implement the beekeeping activity and begin to earn revenue from beekeeping activity.

	Standard 4.8.1-29	Number of person hours of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance	Participant list	2014	0	56700	61710	2940	11220	28,986	18564	109%	In year two, LEAT targeted to spend 50,400 to train 1200 Villagers and 6300 hours to train 350 beekeepers. However, LEAT trained 1190 Villagers for 49,980 hours on NRM and SAM; 267 beekeeping group members for 4,806 hours, 134 members from VNRC on NRM and SAM for 5628 hours, 33 members of partner CBOs for 594 hours on M&E, and 39 theater group members for 702 hours on theater for development making a total of 61,710 hours which are above the set target.
	Standard 4.8.2-28	Number of laws, policies, strategies, plans, or regulations addressing climate change (mitigation or adaptation) and/or biodiversity conservation		2015	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	LEAT will start to report on this indicator in the third year.

		officially proposed, adopted, or implemented as a result of USG assistance.											
	New DO3 Standard indicator.	Percent of program requests for information to LGA/IOAs that are met	Program Reports, Issue based dialogue with government bodies.	2015	0	100%	0	0	0	0	100%	100%	Five (5) requests include district strategic plan, NRM budget, work plans, councilors' resolution report, and implementation reports.
	Custom	Average score of organizational development categories	Document review	2014	2.6	3.0	0	0	0	0	3.3	110%	The surpassing of the target was because the organization's scored above the target set in 7 categories of organizational capacity assessment (OCA) in year two.
	Custom	Number of households in selected areas implementing alternative income generating activities as a result of USG assistance.	Household member	2014	0	350	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	The actuals will be reported in Year 3 after the distribution of beehives to the members of the beehives groups and when they start implementing the beekeeping activity in their respective villages.
	Custom	Number of Citizens applying the	Progress reports/ Village	2014	0	448	336	0	150	87	99	75%	LEAT underachieved on this indicator because most of activities were

		acquired knowledge and/or practices and demanding accountability and transparency in the management of forest and wildlife resources as a result of USG assistance.	assembly/ dialogue /theatre/village governments, CBO observation, interviews										carried out by citizen groups and was unable to track the number of people who put into use the knowledge to demand accountability. Going forward LEAT will establish a clear mechanism of tracking the number of people applying the acquired knowledge/practices through developed tracking tools and the four CBOs will tasked to receive report on this and report it to LEAT.
	NRM-I Custom (4.8.1-5)	Number of citizens trained and increased knowledge on management of forest and wildlife resources as a result of USG assistance	Signed attendance sheet/pre and post-test training scores.	2014	0	1550	1663	70	338	813	442	107%	In year two, LEAT aimed to train 1200 Villagers and 350 beekeepers. However, LEAT trained 1190 villagers and 134 VNRC members on NRM and SAM, 267 beekeepers, 33 members from partner CBO on M&E, and 39 theater group members on theater for development. Thus, LEAT surpassed the target.